

**Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting
Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
October 26, 2020**

Present: Jacob Benda, Joyce Brown, Dave Geslin, Nils Halker, David Jenkins, Liisa Keranen, Jessica Park, Laura Potratz, Phillip Radtke, Lise Schmidt, John Varona

Absent: Kris Rizzotto, Joe Trucano

Also present: Chaplain John Setterlund

Call to Order by Dean David Jenkins at 6:30 PM, Virtual Meeting via the Zoom App hosted by St. Paul Seminary

The meeting began with comments by Chaplain John Setterlund on the historic times of Philipp Nicolai, the hymn writer of “Wachet Auf” and “Wie Schon Leuchtet”. Nicolai’s example shows us encouragement during difficult times. The chaplain encouraged us to persevere during these challenging times. A prayer followed

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

The September minutes were approved as written.

Report: The Dean’s report given by David Jenkins.

- The opening Chapter meeting, conducted on Zoom, was successful and was well received. There were 30 in attendance. After a welcome from Dean David Jenkins, Chaplain John Setterlund opened the meeting with a prayer and the installation of the 2020 officers and board members. The Dean gave a brief State of the Chapter address. Elizabeth George, the National AGO Director of Membership and Chapter Relations, greeted our TCAGO chapter and spoke briefly about state of other chapters in the country and about webinars and other resources available through the National web site. Next a video was played of St. Olaf senior Michael Caraher performing Ecstasy and Reflection from Resurrection by Larry King. A short conversation about how the TCAGO could support members concluded the meeting.

-There was a discussion regarding a suggestion from a member to conduct a survey of our members and the impact of the pandemic on their professional lives. The results would be published in our newsletter. The Dean will consult with some members to draft the questions.

-There was a discussion about our annual members’ printed directory. It was mentioned that many members enjoy the directory for browsing and finding professional contacts. The information also becomes a kind of “yearbook” each year. Some of the information included in

the directory is also short-lived and can change soon after print. Last year \$474 was spent to print and mail the directory, which is less than the \$800 from the prior year. It does take a lot of time to collect information and proofread the directory before printing it. It was debated whether we could do this as a downloadable directory that could easily be updated, but only accessed on line. We recognize that the membership varies in comfortability with and preferences for using online sources. Since the current ONCARD system is already a big change for members, the board may wish to keep the ship steady this year amid the *pandemic* and not make any big changes. The topic was tabled for future discussion.

Report: The secretary's report was given by Joyce Brown.

-Our Nominating Committee Chair will need to be selected and approved by the November meeting. The Nominating Committee chairperson then forms a committee to recruit candidates for possible new board members.

Report: Treasurers report was given by David Geslin.

There have not been any checks written for this year so far. Our investment accounts have recovered from the economic dip. We still have \$3,400 in the members relief fund.

Report: The Sub Dean report was given by Jacob Benda.

-The Northrop video documentary project has begun. Videorecording began this last week. The end product will be 20-25 minutes in length and will feature interviews from several AGO members, including Helen Jensen, Gordon Schultz, Dee Ann Crossley, Bill Chouinard, and Dean Billmeyer. There will be footage of the organ before and after the restoration as well as views from the inside of the case and around the auditorium. There will also be footage of Dean Billmeyer playing the organ. Peter Meyer is our videographer. The project hopefully is on track to be wrapped up by mid-January. This documentary will leave a great legacy for our chapter and for the University.

-The Katelyn Emerson program and master class at Northrop were successful and well received. Katelyn had a program that really showcased the organ. The audience was present in the auditorium and on line.

-Discussion continued on programming for the year during this pandemic. It is difficult to make decisions regarding live performances at this time. Perhaps by May or June we might have a program in a big space and be safe. Discussions also included the possibility of small neighborhood zoom meetings, and of producing a montage of "home videos" of organists performing.

-There was a short discussion of the current state of choral activities.

Motion: Lise Schmidt moved to close the meeting.

Second: Nils Halker

Motion carried.

The meeting closed 7:30 PM

Joyce Brown, Secretary

Next Meeting November 23, 2020